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interests of all nations. Europe organized upon the principle of the Pan-American Union comes, in his opinion, nearest to meeting these conditions.

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MISCELLANEOUS

FORD, HENRY JONES. *Woodrow Wilson*. Pp. 332. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1916.

HERBERTSON, A. J. and HOWARTH, O. J. *The Oxford Survey of the British Empire*. 6 vols. Pp. lxiv, 2129. Price, \$21.75. New York: Oxford University Press.

The student in search of information on present-day economic and political conditions in foreign countries often finds it difficult to secure, without a great amount of reading, material that deals with the underlying facts of the geography, resources, industries and peoples so necessary for a proper interpretation of a country. Historical surveys there are in plenty, but comprehensive and authoritative descriptions of the lands themselves and their economic resources are conspicuous by their rarity. These six volumes supply such descriptions for all the lands that make up the British Empire. In the words of the preface their object is "to furnish a survey of the Empire and its constituent parts in their geographical and allied aspects, together with their economic, administrative and social conditions, at the present time." Five of the volumes deal with British possessions in five continents: Vol. I, The British Isles and Mediterranean possessions; Vol. II, India and other Asiatic possessions; Vol. III, African territories; Vol. IV, Canada, Newfoundland and other New World Possessions; Vol. V, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands and Antarctic. The sixth volume, entitled a General Survey, deals with such topics as British Colonial Administration, Imperial Defense, Problems of Health and Acclimatization, Imperial Commerce and Communications.

Most of the material in the volumes is given to the major divisions of the Empire—The British Isles themselves, India, Canada, the Union of South Africa and Australia. Each division is a compilation of chapters by different authors of recognized authority on the topic treated. As an example of the method of treatment, the section on South Africa may be taken. It contains a chapter on Physical Geography and Geology of the Union of South Africa; one on Climate by the Government Meteorologist; others by competent writers on Vegetation and Fauna; Agriculture; Peoples; Government and Finance, etc. Each of the other divisions is treated under the same general outline. The smaller countries of the Empire are covered by single chapters, such as, for example, Labrador by W. T. Grenfell. At the end of each chapter is a short bibliography, and at the end of each volume tables of statistics—geographical, commercial, social and financial—and a gazetteer of towns. Scattered through the volumes are several finely executed colored maps, both physical and political, and a large number of diagrams and maps in black and white. These, together with many half-tone plates from photographs, greatly augment the value of the text.

The editors have succeeded to an unusual degree in overcoming the defects common to compilations of this kind. Repetitions occur, as is probably inevitable where many writers contribute to a single work; likewise relationships that should be drawn between the facts of different chapters are not stated and these gaps must be bridged over by the reader, but, in general, unity of treatment has been secured in spite of diversity of authors. The geographical viewpoint is consistently maintained; economic responses to physical environment are emphasized, but other determining factors are not overlooked; present conditions rather than past history are presented. As might be expected, the quality of the chapters vary, but taken as a whole, this series is the best description of the physical, economic and social conditions of the various parts of the British Empire that we have.

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HOPKINS, J. CASTELL (Ed.). *The Canadian Annual Review, 1915.* Pp. 880. Price, \$4.00. Toronto: The Annual Review Publishing Company, 1916.

As might be expected, this issue is given over largely to the European war. The first four hundred pages have to do with such matters as the position of the various belligerents during 1915, a chronology of the war, Canada's responses to war demands—her contribution in men, money and achievements. Then follow an appraisal of the position of the United States during the progress of the war and a record of the diplomatic relations between the United States and Great Britain.

Without imputing to the first part of the *Review* a lack of good faith or inaccuracies one may still suggest the advisability of continually applying the ordinary tests of historical criticism.

The last four hundred pages of the book treat of the outstanding issues and problems in each of the various provinces of Canada during 1915. Such data regarding our northern neighbor are not to be passed over lightly by anyone wishing to keep fully posted on what was doing in 1915.

C. H. C.

OLCOTT, CHARLES S. *The Life of William McKinley.* 2 vols. Pp. xxiv, 818. Price, \$5.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1916.

The task of writing a biography of President McKinley was fortunately undertaken by an author of experience and literary ability. Having been connected with the publishing house of Houghton, Mifflin and Company for twenty-five years, Mr. Olcott brought to his work good standards and has succeeded in living up to those standards in presenting the life and work of William McKinley.

About three-eighths of the book deals with Mr. McKinley's early life and his work up to the time of becoming president, the remaining five-eighths of the work are devoted to a discussion of the tasks that confronted President McKinley and the spirit and manner with which he dealt with the problems he had to settle. The author is thoroughly in sympathy with Mr. McKinley's views on the tariff and upon all other public questions with the solution of which President McKinley